

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 SWF-02 SPM-01 IO-14

EB-11 IGA-02 AGR-20 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SCI-06 PC-10

USIA-15 INR-11 DODE-00 INT-08 COME-00 DRC-01 RSC-01

/212 W

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P 271220Z JUL 74

FM USINT ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0851

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

UNCLAS ALGIERS 1632

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, AG

SUBJ: TRANS-SAHARAN GRAIN SHIPMENT/ COMMUNIQUE NO. 5

AFDROUGHT

REF: ALGIERS 1619

FROM FFPO WOOD

1. OPERATION WAS NOT COMPLETED YESTERDAY OWING LARGELY TO LACK AVAILABILITY OF BAGS IN WHICH TO RECONSTITUTE GRAIN FROM BROKEN SACKS. REPAIRS WERE AFFECTED TO ALL POLYETHYLENE SACKS WHICH COULD POSSIBLY BE FOUND. 100 KILO JUTE SACKS ALREADY USED WERE REOPENED AND ADDITIONAL GRAIN POURED INTO THEM AND EVERY EFFORT MADE BY FFPO TO MAKE MOST OF VALUABLE RESOURCES.

2. CONSEQUENTLY LAST FOUR TRUCKS OF THE FOURTH AND UNCLASSIFIED

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FINAL CONVOY ARE IN PROCESS OF BEING LOADED. LOOSE GRAIN

LEFT ON THE DOCK SHOULD AMOUNT TO LESS THAN ONE TON
OUT OF 1,600 TON CARGO. ACTUAL LOSSES AGAINST
CARGO LOAD OF COURSE WILL NOT BE KNOWN UNTIL SEVERAL REPORTS
HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AND SENT TO DAKAR BY AIRMAIL
EARLY NEXT WEEK.

3. SONATMAG AND SNTR LIVED UP TO THE TERMS OF THEIR
RESPECTIVE CONTRACTS SO CHECKS SHOULD BE PROCESSED
WITH THE PROVISION OF INVOICE AND EVERY EFFORT MADE TO
EXPEDITE PAYMENT.

4. TO RECAPITULATE ON CONVOY SITUATION: (A) CONVOY NO.
1 DEPARTED BECHAR FOR GAO ON JULY 22 VIA ADRAR ABOUT
A DAYS JOURNEY FROM STARTING POINT. IT WAS EXPECTED
TO REACH GAO FROM 7 TO 10 DAYS LATER DEPENDING ON
DESERT CONDITIONS. (B) CONVOY NO. 2 DEPARTED BECHAR
FOR GAO ONE DAY LATER WITH A STOP AT ADRAR TO STRETCH
INTERVAL BETWEEN ITS ARRIVAL AT GAO AND THAT OF FIRST
CONVOY TO APPROXIMATELY 48 HOURS. (C) CONVOY NO. 3
LEFT BECHAR AT 1430 HOURS ON JULY 25 WITH ORDERS TO
SOJOURN AT ADRAR FOR 36 HOURS BEFORE PROCEEDING ON
FIRST LEG OF JOURNEY TO GAO. ETA AT GAO IS THERE-
FORE BETWEEN THIRD AND 7TH OF AUGUST. (D) CONVOY NO.
4 SCHEDULED TO DEPART FOR BECHAR AT 1430 HOURS JULY
26. DEPARTURE FROM BECHAR OF ALL TRUCKS SHOULD TAKE
PLACE LATE FOLLOWING DAY OR EARLY IN MORNING OF 28TH. ALL
TRUCKS WILL PROCEED TO TESSALIT WHERE TEN WILL DISCHARGE
CARGO WITH BALANCE OF 12 TURCKS INCLUDING ONE OR TWO
OF RECONSTITUTED GRAIN PROCEEDING TOWARDS GAO WITH
ALL DUE SPEED. EXPECTED APPROXIMATE ARRIVAL TIME AT
TESSALIT IS AUGUST 2ND, HOWEVER, TRAVEL IN DESERT
CONDITIONS MAY DELAY ARRIVAL A DAY OR TWO. ETA OF
PORTION OF LAST CONVOY DESTINED GAO IS ANY TIME
BETWEEN 6 TO 10 AUGUST.

5. IT IS NOT KNOWN HOW POLYESTER SACKS, MANY ALREADY
WEAKENED BY UNLOADING/STACKING/LOADING, WILL STANDUP
TO THE RIGORS OF THE LONG VOYAGE ACROSS THE DESERT
SO IT IS HOPED THAT SUPPLY OF ADDITIONAL SACKS FOR
RECONSTITUTIONAL PURPOSES IS AVAILABLE IN BOTH TESSALIT
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AND GAO.

6. THE MAJOR FLAW IN THIS OPERATION WAS THE ABSENCE
OF SACKS FOR RESACKING OF GRAIN WHEN THE SHIP
ARRIVED. IT IS HOPED THAT EXCESS SACKS HAVE BEEN
LOADED ON THE SHIP DUE TO ARRIVE HERE ON AUGUST22.
ALSO THE ABSENCE OF A TELEX AT THE CONSULATE AND
DEPENDENCE ON AN EXTREMELY ERRATIC TELEPHONE SYSTEM

CAUSED A LOSS OF FFPO'S WORKING TIME.

7. IT IS HOPED THAT AT TESSALIT A CAMERAMAN WILL
ACCOMPANY THE FINAL CONVOY TO GAO TO COMPLETE
THE WORK OF FILMING SO ABLY BEGUN HERE BY LOUIS GIMENEZ
OF VIS NEWS. IN ANY EVENT DESPITE OBSTACLES CREATED
AND ENCOUNTERED IT CAN AT LEAST BE SAID THAT DISPATCH
OF COMMODITIES HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULL AND CONSIDERING
THE FACT THAT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IT HAS EVER BEEN
DONE THINGS HAVE GONE REMARKABLY WELL. THIS IS DUE IN
PART TO EXCELLENT COOPERATION FROM ALL CONCERNED,
CAPTAIN OF JOSEPH LYKES, SNTR, SONATMAG, AMERICAN
CONSUL, AND OF COURSE USINT ALGIERS. THE EFFORT
EXPENDED HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE. IT HAS BEEN NECESSARY TO
SPEND 12 HOURS A DAY AT THE DOCKS--WEEKENDS
INCLUDED--TO INSURE CARGO WAS DISCHARGED/LOADED/
RECONSTITUTED/DISPATCHED.SIMPSON

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